

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: April 25, 2024
TIME: 2:25 PM

Recreation Commission Meeting

2/12/2024

Zoom

Commission Attendees: Paul Cowing (Chair), Dave Lind (Vice Chair), Cortney Eldridge (Secretary), Mike Capitani, Theresa O'Connor, Ken Krilla, Marissa Marcos, Anthony Ferrante

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts, Heidi Barberio

Call to order 5:32pm

Underwood Pool Fees (possible vote): Brendan Fitts

Would prefer to keep things identical to summer of 2023. We'd like to level-fund due to construction in the area and expected poor experience. Last year we had rainy weekends (and increased weekend travel likely compared to 2022/post-COVID summer); memberships were down a little vs prior year.

Fee structure last year/proposed this year:

\$350 for family residents of Belmont

\$110 individual residents

\$50 seniors

\$60 caregivers (restricted to add-on to family membership)

\$650 family nonresident

\$220 individual nonresident

Through April 15th, at which time prices increase to:

\$365 for family residents

\$115 individual residents

\$50 seniors (no change)

\$65 caregivers (restricted to add-on to family membership)

\$675 family nonresident

\$230 individual nonresident

Individual passes (to purchase onsite/when pool opens):

\$15 Adult resident / \$7.50 after 5pm

\$10 child/senior/military / \$5 after 5pm

\$25 adult nonresident / \$12.50 after 5pm

\$20 child nonresident / \$10 after 5pm

Guest of Belmont residents who have a pool membership receive the resident day pass rate

Motion:

Recreation Commission approves the rates as stated above for Underwood Pool for the Summer of 2024.

Approved unanimously: Dave Lind, Cortney Eldridge, Ken Krilla, Mike Capitani, Marissa Marcos, Anthony Ferrante, Steve Warner, Therese O'Connor, Paul Cowing

Rink Update and discussion of off-season usage: Anthony Ferrante

- Missing 2 hockey seasons; schedule for opening is May 2025
- Original plan was to build on the original footprint but it must be moved slightly

- When it comes online, the Town will hire a Rink Manager, who will report to the Town Administrator and be responsible for programming
- Ice season will be September through early May; off-season will be late May through mid-August

CPC Updates: Brandon

- Lots of things are in winter-hold-mode
- Original plan was Grove St Walking Path would be open during the winter but Cataldo (contractor) had some safety concerns due to flooding in the fall
- Looking to do netting in Grove St Basketball Court so balls don't fly into the street
- PQ on target for opening June 1
- Payson Park is looking more like July/August; more to come in the spring

Spring Fields Updates: Brandon

- All the fields at the HS campus will be online for use this spring
- This will ease pressure on all the town fields
- Currently working with youth sports teams and HS athletic director for scheduling
- Ideally we'll rest parts of fields [on scheduled rotation]
- Want to rest and rehab PQ in particular; next priority to rest is Grove
- Budgeting: we do not have a maintenance budget for fields; the maintenance budget comes largely from fees (e.g., youth sports, tennis court fees, permit fees, etc.)

Concern: unsure when fields are closed (to usage) in winter season (e.g., when there is no snow, lots of rain in the winter, how do we enforce closures during on-season (spring/fall) usage; communicate when parks are offline in certain months, etc.)

In future meeting: open discussion for communication for closures and budgeting for maintenance and rest

Question: have we made progress on consistent park rules (etc.)?

Not yet. Would like to tackle in the coming months – it needs to be in place before the spring.

Next month: Field Rules discussion. We are dependent on other departments to accomplish some of these tasks.

Dog Program Update (Brandon Fitts)

- We put our recommendation forward; the Select Board acts as Park Commissioners; we (Rec Commission) tried to modify the program in a way it might work for everybody
- Held a joint meeting with Health Board, Select Board, Recreation Commission
- Select Board said more community meetings must take place; Select Board is likely to propose an alternative to what this commission discussed and voted on
- Next meeting will happen in March at some point

Clarifications: Did the Select Board feel we did not get the feedback from the community that was expected?

A: Unclear

Clarification: This is a weird circumstance, with the Board of Health and Recreation Commission. Who is responsible for making this plan/decision?

A: It seems that the Recreation Commission will not be leading this; the Health Department feels this is not a public safety issue but a parks issue

Clarification: Who is our select board liaison?

A: Seems that Select Board is doing away with liaison; Roy seems to be leading the charge on this; reach out to him

Clarification: what is the process for updating a bylaw?

A: Submit a petition, placed on a Town Meeting Warrant before the deadline, is voted on at Town Meeting

Clarification: If there is something we feel that the Select Board needs to be aware of, historically we could invite our Select Board liaison

Chenery Project: Brandon

- In April, will go to Town Meeting for design and engineering (\$300k; 10% of project cost); would like to ask CPC set aside \$1m in anticipation of the project cost – which we do not know yet
- We need to engage the schools a bit more – administration, etc., to discuss field usage, confirm

Public Discussion

Lucia Sullivan, interim assistant superintendent: Excited to finalize the principal and come up with a plan for PE and recreation programming

Meg Moriarty, School Committee Member: please present to the school committee as the school committee can vote on this ahead of Town Meeting. Eager to collaborate on who is making what decisions so we can be clear with the public on who is doing what.

Next Meeting

Timing

- March 4th: 5:30pm on Zoom
- April 29th: 5:30pm on Zoom

Meeting Adjourned 6:45pm